AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1 through 13, 16 through 19, 22, 36 through 48, 72 through 97, 99 through 101, and 103 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 14 and 102 and add Claims 104 through 107 as follows:

1-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An apparatus according to claim ~~12~~104, further comprising a reproducer arranged to reproduce the display image ~~data and/or sound data synthesized~~ generated by said synthesizer.

15 - 101. (Cancelled)

102. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~12~~104, wherein the user layout further effects a change in audio output format.

103. (Cancelled)

104. (New) An apparatus for receiving a television program, comprising:

a receiver, arranged to receive a bit stream broadcasted as the television program, wherein in the bit stream is multiplexed first image data encoded by a first coding format, second image data encoded by a second coding format, and system data;

a first decoder, arranged to decode the first image data to generate a first image;

a second decoder, arranged to decode the second image data to generate a second image;

a third decoder, arranged to decode the system data;

a detector, arranged to detect at least a basic layout depending on the television program, a program ID of the television program which is in the midst of being received, and a character command, from the decoded system data, wherein the character command indicates generation of a character image and a layout of the character image, and the program ID is uniquely specified for each television program;

a character generator, arranged to generate a character image indicated by the detected character command using internal character data;

a setter, arranged to set a user layout to display images represented by the first image, the second image, and the character image corresponding to the program ID;

a storage, arranged to store user layout data, which corresponds to the user layout set by said setter, corresponding to the program ID;

a determiner, arranged to determine whether or not the program ID detected by said detector is coincident with a registered program ID corresponding to the user layout data stored in said storage; and

a synthesizer, arranged to synthesize the first image, the second image, and the character image based on the user layout data read out from said storage in accordance with the detected program ID when said determiner determines that the detected and registered program IDs are coincident, and to synthesize those images based on the basic layout and the character command detected by said detector when said determiner determines that the detected and registered program IDs are not coincident, so that a display image of the television program is generated.

105. (New) An apparatus according to claim 104, wherein said setter sets a position and/or size of the first image, the second image, and the character image individually.

106. (New) A method of receiving a television program, comprising the steps of:

receiving a bit stream broadcasted as the television program, wherein in the bit stream is multiplexed first image data encoded by a first coding format, second image data encoded by a second coding format, and system data;

decoding the first image data to generate a first image;

decoding the second image data to generate a second image;

decoding the system data;

detecting at least a basic layout depending on the television program, a program ID of the television program which is in the midst of being received, and a character

command, from the decoded system data, wherein the character command indicates generation of a character image and a layout of the character image, and the program ID is uniquely specified for each television program;

generating a character image indicated by the detected character command using internal character data;

setting a user layout to display images represented by the first image, the second image, and the character image corresponding to the program ID;

storing user layout data, which corresponds to the set user layout, corresponding to the program ID to a memory;

determining whether or not the detected program ID is coincident with a registered program ID corresponding to the user layout data stored in the memory; and

synthesizing the first image, the second image, and the character image based on the user layout data read out from the memory in accordance with the detected program ID when the determining step determines that the detected and registered program IDs are coincident, and synthesizing those images based on the basic layout and the character command detected in the detecting step when the determining step determines that the detected and registered program IDs are not coincident, so that a display image of the television program is generated.

107. (New) A computer-executable program stored on a computer-readable storage medium comprising program code causing a computer to perform a method of receiving a television program, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a bit stream broadcasted as the television program, wherein in the bit stream is multiplexed first image data encoded by a first coding format, second image data encoded by a second coding format, and system data;

decoding the first image data to generate a first image;

decoding the second image data to generate a second image;

decoding the system data;

detecting at least a basic layout depending on the television program, a program ID of the television program which is in the midst of being received, and a character command, from the decoded system data, wherein the character command indicates generation of a character image and a layout of the character image, and the program ID is uniquely specified for each television program;

generating a character image indicated by the detected character command using internal character data;

setting a user layout to display images represented by the first image, the second image, and the character image corresponding to the program ID;

storing user layout data, which corresponds to the set user layout, corresponding to the program ID to a memory;

determining whether or not the detected program ID is coincident with a registered program ID corresponding to the user layout data stored in the memory; and

synthesizing the first image, the second image, and the character image based on the user layout data read out from the memory in accordance with the detected program ID when the determining step determines that the detected and registered program IDs are

coincident, and synthesizing those images based on the basic layout and the character command detected in the detecting step when the determining step determines that the detected and registered program IDs are not coincident, so that a display image of the television program is generated.